

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /120 W

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R 131951Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2326

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21776

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR FR XF

SUBJECT: FRENCH MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY

1. IN CONFIRMING TO US SEPT 13 FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES' PLANS TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST (LEBANON, OCT 19-21; JORDAN, OCT 21-22; ISRAEL, OCT 31-NOV 1), QUAI ISRAEL-JORDAN OFFICER BELLEISSUE TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE FONMIN'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AND THE ADMITTEDLY "CORDIAL" MEETING LAST WEEK BETWEEN PRESIDENT GISCARD AND ISRAELI AMBASSADOR BEN NATHAN BETOKEN NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN FRENCH POLICY. HE RECALLED THAT SAUVAGNARGUES' VISITS TO THE AREA ARE A CONTINUATION OF THOSE UNDERTAKEN BY FONMIN JOBERT, WHOSE MAY 5 VISIT TO ISRAEL WAS CANCELED BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S FIRST MEETING WITH THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR WAS CORDIAL, TOO, BELLEISSUE NOTED. ASSERTING THAT FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL WILL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL ISRAEL RETURNS TO ITS 1967 FRONTIERS AS REQUIRED BY RESOLUTION 242, BELLEISSUE SAID THAT GISCARD'S POLICY OF REMOVING IRRITANTS ("DECRISPATION") MIGHT ALTER THE
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TONE, BUT NOT THE ESSENCE, OF FRENCH MIDDLE EASTERN

POLICY.

2. COMMENT: ISRAELI EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE ALSO DESCRIBED THE GISCARD-BEN NATHAN MEETING AS CORDIAL--AND NOT VERY SUBSTANTIVE. THEY SHARE BELLEISSUE'S DOUBT THAT THE MEETING AND THE UPCOMING VISIT BY SAUVAGNARGUES REFLECT ANY BASIC CHANGE IN FRENCH POLICY BUT ARE CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT THE GREATER SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL FELT BY MEMBERS OF GISCARD'S GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO MORE THAN SUPERFICIAL DIFFERENCES FROM DEGAULLE-POMPIDOU POLICY. WE SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH A HOPE.

IRWIN

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NNN

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